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Paul Dabbs
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via: e-mail: pdabbs@water.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Dabbs:

SUBJECT: California Water Plan Update 2005; Public Review Draft; Comment(s)

I suppose that, as a member of the Extended Review Forum, I have received via e-mail all five volumes of the subject Draft. In Volume 1, requested comments were directed to the above-specified address. I have but one comment, which I have underlined herein.

I note that numerous people have worked for years, diligently, to produce these five volumes. I have specifically read through the names listed in Volume 1, Chapter 2, at pp. vi - x, and xii - xiv. The intentions at every turn appear to have been honorable and genuine.

My surmise is that no-one could possibly read every page of all five volumes and comment intelligently about them within the 'comment period.' However, I have read:

V1/C2: California Water Plan Update 2005: A Framework for Action (24p.)
Numerous people were involved. Steve Shaffer was listed twice (pp. ix and x), inexplicably.

V1/C3: California Water Today
Challenges (Dry-years, people without safe water, deferred maintenance/ aging facilities, flood management, and water and energy -- among others).

V1/C4: Preparing for an Uncertain Future
Fig. 4-3, Net change in...water demand...2000-2003, p. 15.
Table 4-5, ...criteria for...achievement of...objectives, p. 18.

V1/C5: Implementation Plan
I like Recommendation 6. I also have looked ahead to the V4 Ref. Guide's "Financing Strategies..." article.

V2/C2: Desalination (6p.)

V2/C18: Surface Storage - Regional/ Local (4p.) (4 recommendations)

V2/C20: Urban Land Use Management (4 recommendations; none germane)

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- V2/C23: Water Transfers (11p. -- and the page numbers don't show up.)
The transfers entabulated on p. 23-6 are trivial in relation to 'the problem.' (4 recommendations, p. 9-11. Serious anemia abounds.)
- V2/C25: Watershed Management (7p.) (A little long...)
- V2/C26: Other Resource Management Strategies
Six are listed, at least 5 of which are fatuous, at best.
- V3/C2: North Coast Hydrologic Region (20p.)
Numerous 'challenges' -- rather depressing in the main.
- V3/C5: South Coast Hydrologic Region (29p.)
What is NDMA (p. 5-7)?
The State has provided enormous (bond and other) support to this region, which is barely mentioned (p. 5-15 *et seq.*).
Fig. 5-3, p. 5-21: Why is "Reg. Delta Outflow" in this legend?
One notes that in this region (18+ million people) more than half the water entering the region is imported in the average year, and there is a net loss of stored water in all years (Table 5-1, p. 5-24). Does the State think it should do any specific thing about that?
- V3/C7: San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region (22p.)
~2,000,000 acres of irrigated agriculture, and yet only "23 percent [of the region's supply is] from imported surface supplies." Remarkable. What should one suppose the State might want to do about that?
- V3/C12: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Region (26p.)
426,000 people (p. 12-3).
The statement, "Besides those constituents known to impact organisms in the Delta, there are likely other substances that have not yet been identified that are contributing to toxicity problems," is syntactically -- if not absolutely -- false, about the Delta, the Volga, the Tennessee, or the Tombigbee -- or my toaster.
- V4 Introduction/ Editor's Message (1p.)
Required reading. Message: This entire volume is irrelevant.
- V4 A California Water Chronology (2p.) (Fascinating! No, really!)
- V4 Limits to Increasing the Productivity of Water in Crop Production (20p.)
I note in footnote 10, p. 4: "TE and WUE might be thought of as benefit-cost ratios (yield-ET)¹ rather than efficiencies." That's brilliant, actually.
- V4 Future Quantitative Analyses for California Water Planning (9p.)
- V4 Strategic Analysis Framework to Guide Future Development of Analytical Tools for Managing Water In California (28p.)

¹ *i.e.*, yield-to-ET, as benefit-to-cost; yield OVER ET, as benefit OVER cost -- a RATIO, ya dig?

Paul Dabbs, 05/12/05, p. 3.

Stunning. People in CA are actually thinking about doing something with the Texas Water Plan tools. Orlob and WRE (including me) started our look at that comprehensive tools-set (for TX) in 1967.

- V4 Quantified Scenarios of 2030 California Water Demand (52p.)
(Part of a "doctoral thesis.")
- V4 Accounting for Climate Change (14p.) - Maurice Roos
Best writing on this subject (related to CA) yet produced.
- V4 Planning for Extreme and Prolonged Drought Conditions (5p.)
Unfulfilling. This will require interstate transfers. There. I said it.
- V4 Californians Without Safe Water (72p.)
Well. There's no better need for a Water Plan, is there?
- V5 CWP Data Recommendations (4p.)
When will 'data' finally be recognized as the plural noun it truly are?
- V5 data recommendations.xls (Survey of data needs)
- V5 Water Portfolio General Definitions
(Got thrown out/off by Norton Antivirus upon opening this! Whoa! I'm done.)
- V5 Scenario Factor Table
(cool!)

After all those pages and 38 years of water planning in California, I come to my one comment, which is: I don't get it. If anybody really wants to know where the California State Water Plan is buried, if anywhere in all these volumes, it is on page 5-dash-15 of Chapter 5 of Volume 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Sonnen, PhD, P.E.